



LIBERTY

"We raise the watchword Liberty! We shall—we SHALL be free!"—Tolpuddle Martyrs.

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FIGHT NOW TO REPEAL THE FASCIST ACT

REV. F. J. HARTLEY'S MESSAGE

Liberty Leads Australia's Fight For Freedom

WITH each issue of Liberty, more people flock to our cause.

With each issue of Liberty, more people see the necessity for our paper.

This issue comes to you in one of the really dark periods of Australian history. It is up to you, the people of Australia, to determine whether it is a temporary eclipse or whether the torch of liberty is to go out as far as our political life is concerned.

The torch will never be completely extinguished because it will always burn in some hearts, but if we allow scandalous laws to remain on our statute book for long, it will take generations to recover.

Only united pressure from the people can save Australia from slipping back with a long uphill struggle to put right a retrograde step.

History illustrates the doom of tyrants. It also illustrates that thousands drown in blood before the tyrants' inevitable doom if the people allow them to get away with their early acts of tyranny.

The Democratic Rights Council was born in struggle. It will grow strong in struggle.

It will win the struggle. The Democratic Rights Council has consistently opposed the Communist Party Dissolution Act in toto.

We would do this even if only the Communist Party were threatened.

We would do this because we think it is fundamentally wrong to ban minority opinion.

Already people can see—what we have always told them—that this repressive legislation cannot possibly stop with the Communist Party.

The Melbourne Herald, sensing victory, has already named the Australian Peace Council, the Democratic Rights Council and the Union of Australian Women.

This impudent article in the Herald was published before the Committee was appointed whose business it will be to give advice on individuals and organisations who are to be declared.

We can expect an extension of this underhand reporting and publication.

For the information of the Herald and anybody who may be concerned, the Democratic Rights Council is not a Communist front. We have avowed Communists on our Committee but they represent a minority opinion.

The day will never dawn when any Government or individual will tell me who I will mix with.

The day will never dawn when any Government or individual will tell me what I can read, what I can think, and what I can say.

Traditionally, I come of the line of those who have made the right of private judgment a fundamental premise of their way of life.

Having won the battle in the theological sphere, we do not intend to surrender to political expediency.

It is always good mental discipline to examine in the light of subsequent events any stand on principle that one has taken.

It is good, since the passage of time, if we have eyes to see and ears to hear, widens our experience and increases our knowledge.

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A WIDESPREAD movement to get the Communist Party Dissolution Act repealed and to oust the Menzies Government of inflation and developing throughout the country.

The memberships of the powerful Miners', Waterside Workers' and Seamen's Unions have decided on immediate industrial action should the Act be used against them.

The validity of the Act is being challenged in the High Court by the Communist Party and a number of Federal unions.

People everywhere are dropping minor differences and uniting in defence of their living standards and democratic rights.

Railworkers in three States have already taken strike action for their special passive time and overtime demands and a £1 basic wage increase free of deductions.

Their action for higher pay is being linked with this struggle against the Act which is aimed at destroying the trade union movement in order to impose the burdens of war on the Australian people.

The Central Rail Strike Committee has warned the government to keep its hands off union officials and members.

A meeting of Building Trades' Federation shop stewards on Monday resolved to answer any attempt to use the Act with industrial action. A similar resolution was carried last week by the executive of the Wonthaggi Branch of the Miners' Federation.

NSW Metal Trades' Federation delegates from metal shops all over Sydney by 470 to one warned last week of direct action to defeat the Menzies Act and swift basic wage relief.

Fourteen thousand ironworkers throughout Sydney stopped work yesterday to protest against the high cost of living and the fascist threat to working class liberty.

These moves for mass action follow stoppages throughout the coalfields.

They are just some of the stirrings of what will be the greatest industrial battles in Australia's history—battles for which the government bears full responsibility.

Union leaders are confident that the widespread range of protests throughout Australia can force the repeal of the Act.



Part of the huge crowd which gathered at the Yarra Sunday to demand repeal of the Communist Party Dissolution Act.

Dockyard AEU Men Will Act

NINETY engineers at the Williams-town Naval Dockyards met as soon as it became clear, from the Labor leaders' betrayal, that the fascist bill would pass.

They decided unanimously to stop work if any action were taken against their shop committee members.

ABOUT 40 workers at EMP factory in North Carlton gave an attentive hearing to a speaker from the Democratic Rights Council at lunchtime on Monday.

"It is not the Democratic Rights Council and similar bodies which fight for peace and democracy who will be going underground," he stated. "On the contrary Mr. Menzies, whose government has introduced Hitler-like regulation and followed a war policy of inflation and galloping prices, who will soon be looking for a place to hide from the wrath of the people."

PROTEST AGAINST POLICE RAIDS

THE Democratic Rights Council regards the police raids on premises allegedly occupied by the Communist Party in each capital city as a further dangerous infringement of democracy.

This was said yesterday by the Council's secretary, Mr. V. J. A. O'Connor. Unless all democrats voice their protests, these police raids will become widespread, he said.

At the same time police raided the printery of the North Australians Workers' Union, and the union's offices.

The ground for the raid on the printery was that in the normal course of business, it had printed a leaflet for the Communist Party 19 months ago.

SHIP CREW WILL ACT IF ATTACKED

MEETINGS were held on Saturday during the week to discuss the Communist Party Act, and passed resolutions of protest and pledging themselves to immediate action if their democracy were interfered with in any way.

About 12 telegrams were sent to the Federal Executive of the CPD, telling him of these decisions.

A NUMBER of workers at railway workshops to the Federal Executive of telegrams denouncing their supporting the CPD BILL.

The D.R.C. And You

THE Democratic Rights Council body, pledged to protect rights. It may not (in its would not) agree with you it, recognises your right them, and it will fight for them, and science for all perspective of race, religion, social status.

But similarly, it will OPPOSE such race hatred, and it will OPPOSE all who would deprive the people of their inalienable rights by means of repressive laws.

From now on, Liberty will be paper. Help us to spread it by selling it for us in your workplace and among your friends. You need LIBERTY. Buy it now.

TRAMMIES ENDORSE £1000 FUND TO FIGHT ACT

AT their meeting on Sunday morning, tramway employees showed their determination to fight the Communist Party Dissolution Act by endorsing the action of their executive to provide a fund of £1,000 for the defence of any member "declared."